IN THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 (currently amended) Aligning device for feeding products (13, 13’, 13”) stacked on top of each other for transfer to a packaging area for wrapping in plastic film or paper ~~into an automatic packaging machine, in particular products (13, 13’ 13”) of any thickness or size~~, comprising ~~fed by~~ at least one sheet placer (14, 14’ 14”) for feeding said products to a conveyor (11) equipped with a plurality of pushers (12), positioned at a ~~certain~~ distance one behind the other with [[a]] an adjustment step ~~that can be set previously, the products (13, 13’ 13”) being stacked on top of each other and transferred to a packaging area for wrapping in plastic film or paper, characterised in that~~ wherein said device is mounted downstream of said at least one sheet placer (14, 14’ 14”) ~~and foresees~~ having at least one sheet engaging element (16) that is brought into contact with the front end of a fed product during forward travel, and said engaging element extends into a lengthwise slot (18) inside which said conveyor (11) pushers (12) also slide, aligning said product with the respective pusher (12) which is movable away from ~~and then moving away from the~~ said product to permit ~~its~~ said product to travel towards the packaging area or towards another sheet placer (14, 14’ 14”).

Claim 2 (currently amended) Device according to claim 1 ~~characterised in that~~ wherein said engaging element (16) is driven by a variable speed motor (20).

Claim 3 (currently amended) Device according to claim 2, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein said motor (20) is associated with a belt or chain (17) that ring winds and that transports at least one engaging element (16).

Claim 4 (canceled)

Claim 5 (currently amended) Device according to claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein said engaging element (16) is composed of a blade or a rod.

Claim 6 (currently amended) ~~Aligning~~ A method for aligning products (13, 13', 13") stacked on top of each other for transfer to a packing area for wrapping in plastic film or paper ~~fed into an automatic packaging machine, in particular products (13, 13' 13") of any thickness or size by~~ comprising [[a]] at least one sheet placer (14, 14' 14") for feeding said products to a conveyor (11) equipped with a plurality of pushers (12) positioned at a ~~certain~~ distance one behind the other with [[a]] an adjustment step ~~that can be set previously, the said products (13, 13' 13") being stacked on top of one another and transferred to a packaging area for wrapping with plastic film or paper, and where~~ wherein said method ~~foresees during~~ comprises a first step, that an engaging element (16), which extends into a lengthwise slot (18) inside which said conveyor (11) pushers (12) also slide, ~~is sent to make~~ and makes contact with the front end of said stacked products, which are propelled by ~~the~~ said conveyor pushers, during a second step ~~the~~ said engaging element slows down until it makes contact with ~~the most~~ a protruding part of said stacked products, aligning them with each other, and then during a third step ~~the~~ said ~~pusher~~ engaging element is removed rapidly to permit the forward travel of said ~~correctly~~ aligned stacked products.

Claim 7 (currently amended) ~~Alignment~~ The method for aligning products according to claim 6, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein said second step ~~is composed of the~~ further comprises a slow acceleration step of said engagement element to a speed ~~lower~~ less than that of ~~the~~ said conveyor, and of a gradual acceleration of said conveyor to ~~equalise~~ equalize the length of ~~the maximum~~ said ~~product~~ products ~~to be equalise~~.